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Bananas contain dietary fibre that we need to have healthy bowel movements

BangaloreMirror
Saturday, May 18, 2024
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WRITE OR TYPE?

Research shows children produce better pieces of writing by hand. But they need keyboard skills too

Children today are growing up surrounded by technology. So it's easy to assume they will be able to write effectively using a keyboard.

But our research suggests this is not necessarily true.

We need to actively teach students to be able to type as well as write using paper and pen or pencil.

Our research

Our research team has published two recent studies investigating children's handwriting and typing.

In a study published last month we looked at Year 2 students and their handwriting and keyboard writing. This study involved 544 students from 17 primary schools in Perth, Western Australia.

We assessed how easily students wrote stories using paper and pencil compared to writing stories using a laptop. We found they produced longer and higher-quality handwritten texts. This was based on ten criteria, including ideas, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

These findings echoed our December 2023 study where we did a meta-analysis of studies published between 2000–2022. These compared the effects of writing by hand or keyboard on primary students' writing.

We looked at 22 international studies involving 6,168 participants from across different countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and other non-native English-speaking countries, such as Germany and Portugal.

Our analysis showed primary students produce higher quality texts using paper and pen or pencil than when using a keyboard.

Why are kids stronger in handwriting?

In Australia – as in many other countries – children are taught to write by hand first. Keyboard writing is only added as an extra skill once handwriting has been mastered.

We know it is very important to continue to teach children to write by hand, despite so many advances in technology.

Studies show teaching handwriting in the first years of schooling is connected to improved spelling and greater capacity to write well and quickly in primary and later years of schooling.

Other studies show using handwriting to create texts (such as notes) promotes our capacity to learn and memorise information.

But they also need to learn how to use keyboards

We know it is also important for students be able to write quickly and accurately using a keyboard.

They will need to use keyboards to write for study, work and life as they get older. This process needs to become automatic so they can concentrate on the content of what they are writing.

Our research has consistently shown young people who can spell and write quickly and accurately are able to produce longer and higher quality pieces of writing. Other studies have shown when children face difficulties in handwriting or typing, they may often avoid writing altogether and develop a negative mindset toward writing.

Learning to type is complex

As our research suggests, students also need to be taught how to use a keyboard. Much like handwriting, it requires a complex set of cognitive, visual and motor processes, requiring frequent practice and instruction.

It involves learning the location of the keys on a keyboard, combined with spatial skills of positioning, and moving fingers to press the keys in the correct sequence.

Students need time to practise so they can move beyond the "hunt and peck" motion (where you have to hunt visually for each key).

Research also suggests teaching about keyboards is more effective when spread out over several years.

First, children need to understand letter locations on the keyboard and the position of their hands, which can be developed via online practice exercises monitored by teachers. Accuracy and speed should not be emphasised until students have mastered where letters are.

Which comes first?

While students ultimately need to be able to write both on paper and using digital devices, there are unanswered questions about the order in which handwriting and typing should be taught or whether they should be taught together.

We also don't yet know if it matters whether students are learning to write via keyboards, touch typing on tablets or by using stylus pens (devices that look like pencils and write via screens).

More research is needed to support teachers, students and families.

How to help your child

Despite these unknowns, there are many things we can do to help students learn how to write on paper and using a keyboard. These include:

dedicating time for practice: teachers can build regular times in class to write and send home small tasks (such as writing a shopping list, finishing a story or describing a monster)

joining in: instead of "policing" your child's writing, show them what you write in your everyday life. As you write, you can talk about what you will write (planning) and you can share ideas about how you can make your writing clearer or more exciting.

talk about your mistakes and find ways of correcting your writing: when adults talk about their errors or doubts, they make them a natural part of the process.

ask children to read what they have written: this provides opportunities for correction and celebration. Praise children's bold attempts such as using new words or experimenting with expressions.

give children choice: this gives children some control. For example, they can choose a topic, they can mix art and letters or they can choose paper or keyboard.

display their writing: make children's writing visible on your walls or fridge or as wallpapers on your devices to instil a sense a pride in what they have done.

(By Anabela Malpique, Edith Cowan University, Deborah Pino Pasternak, University of Canberra, and Susan Ledger, University of Newcastle, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Dysmorphia

Picture says a lot
Many people who are living with obesity suffer from dysmorphic disorder -- a condition in which a person has a distorted image of their body -- and conceal their body in their WhatsApp profile pictures, according to a study on Tuesday.

Appearance matters
People with body dysmorphic disorder feel dissatisfied with their physical appearance and may experience shame or anxiety about their bodies. Those obese and with the disorder believe they are heavier than they actually are.
"This study suggests that something as simple as a WhatsApp profile picture could give doctors a valuable insight into whether someone living with obesity has body dysmorphia," said lead Antonella Franceschelli, of Unicamillus International Medical University, in Italy.

What profile pic says
In a study, involving 59 obese patients (49 females, 10 males, mean age 53 years, mean BMI 32 kg/m2), the team provided clear evidence of body dysmorphia, with 90 per cent of the men and 86 per cent of the women using profile pictures that didn't represent their physical reality.
"Profile pictures of pets, family members, landscapes, flowers and cartoon characters may indicate the individual has body dysmorphic disorder," Franceschelli said.

Social media problem
The research also found that social media exacerbates the excessive concern about physical appearance, where unrealistic standards of beauty and physical shape are often shared.
"People with body dysmorphic disorder can be particularly sensitive to these influences, constantly comparing themselves to idealised images and feeling inadequate in comparison," Franceschelli said. —IANS

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CITY PAGE 2

FEE JOLT

Parents brace for impact as private schools plan 30-35% hike in fees for upcoming academic year

LOG BACKLOG

Officials have not found time to clear cut up branches of a tree that had fallen at burial ground 5 months ago

CITY PAGE 6

Project tracker: White topping

With monsoon round the corner, RT Nagar residents are losing hope that white-topping of the main road is going to get done anytime soon

TRUDGE IN THE SLUDGE

Work began more than year ago, but road now dug up, construction material dumped on footpath

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The delay in completion of the ongoing white topping of RT Nagar Main Road is causing a lot of inconvenience to residents and motorists. With a major portion of the road having been reduced to slush after the rain, pedestrians are also finding it tough to walk on the road.

The stretch of the road, dug up for laying water supply pipes and electric cables, poses danger to the motorists. The motorists and residents can only hope that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials would ensure that all the pending works

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"Footfalls have come down by more than 50 percent due to lack of parking space. All these days, there was a lot of dust. Now, the road has become slushy due to rain — Hotelier in the area

Linear casualties

Roads, rail tracks run through state's forests; experts call for better planning to prevent collisions with wildlife

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

So far, over 1,000 hectares of forest land in Karnataka has been diverted for as many as 94 road and railway projects.

While many linear transport infrastructure (LTI) projects are running through forest patches, strategies to address the negative impacts of these projects on wildlife have been few and far between.

In the given scenario, some wildlife conservationists point to a recent handbook by IUCN specialist groups on eco-friendly engineering and technical solutions. They say implementing these ideas might bring down the number of wildlife dying on roads and railway tracks due to collisions.

The IUCN handbook highlights that poorly planned LTI development can have severe impacts on ecosystems and species. These include loss, fragmentation, and degradation of habitat, increased rates of hunting and poaching of wildlife, increased resource extraction, such as legal and/or illegal mining and logging, pollution due to noise, light, vibrations, and chemicals from vehicles and trains, increased frequency and intensity of wildfires, land speculation or land

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Unicorn art

Explore the various facets and forms of unicorn brought to life in the paintings with 'Unicorn Magic,' a group exhibition by young untrained in painting aspirants of art learning at Bimba The Art Hut. The paintings explore the imagery and magical connections between us and the mystical, timeless beings. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi**
When: May 17 to 19, 10:30 am to 7 pm

02 Fusion beats

Join in for a night filled with amazing music as Focus Group Radio X Social presents 'Dans Punk.' Come and experience the fusion of dub, kuduro, guaracha, techno, dembow, and Middle Eastern bass music with Toumba, Nich, and Sura in an electrifying event at Social.
Where: Indiranagar Social, New Tippasandra
When: May 18, 8 pm onwards

Parents in quandary over hike in school fees

Fees go up by 30–35%; schools justify hikes while parents demand reductions

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

For the academic year 2024–25, many private schools have increased fees by 20–30 per cent. Though schools officially begin on May 29, the admissions process has started, and revised fees are being charged. Existing students face one type of fee hike, while new students pay even more. Normally, fee hikes range from five to fifteen percent, but this year they are higher. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) schools attribute the increase to rising management fees, teacher salaries, and other expenses. Meanwhile, state syllabus schools struggle with fewer students, making fee hikes unavoidable.

Compared to state syllabus schools, central syllabus schools have increased their fees by 30–35 per cent. For instance, a school in South Bengaluru has hiked fees from Rs 1.60 lakh to Rs 2.16 lakh, a 35 per cent hike.

The Karnataka Private School Joint Action Committee has strongly condemned the fee hike, demanding government intervention to reduce fees. They argue that the exorbitant hike is unjustified and will make education inaccessible for many students. On the other hand, central syllabus schools justify the fee increase, citing the above-mentioned expenses. Private school associations also highlight increased taxes and renovation costs mandated by the education department as contributing factors to the fee hike. The committee has urged the government to intervene and reduce fees to ensure education remains accessible. In contrast, private school associations argue that the fee hike is necessary to maintain education quality and cover rising costs, claiming the increase is reasonable and will not overly burden parents. This issue has sparked a debate between private school associations and parents, with the former justifying the hike and the latter demanding reductions. The government has yet to intervene, leaving parents and students in uncertainty.

No instalment options

Additionally, many schools are not offering instalment options for fee payments, causing concern among parents. "A marginal hike in fees is understandable, but this drastic increase puts us in a quandary. We can't change schools because we'd need to pay admission fees and other costs again, yet staying means paying significantly higher fees," said Jayanthi Mahesh, a parent. They fear the increased fees will make quality education unaffordable.

Justifying the hike

"Students are flocking to central syllabus schools, making it inevitable for state syllabus schools to increase their fees. Moreover, the education department has increased taxes and renovation costs, forcing us to hike fees as well," said D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools. "A 10–15 per cent hike is reasonable. Additionally, parents are demanding various activities, which require additional funding," added S Sathyamurthy of the Karnataka Unaided Schools Management Association (KUSMA). Kumar further blamed the government for the situation. "I squarely blame the state government, especially the education department, as they are issuing new orders constantly. Water, registration, processing charges, power, and other essentials have all increased. With many new schools getting permission, there's a shortage of students, leading to financial burdens on existing schools. The supply exceeds the demand, impacting fee hikes. I believe a 30-35 per cent increase is unscientific, while a 10-15 per cent hike is justifiable."

'Design effective crossing structure for animals'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

use change, and illegal settlements and increased human activity. According to the handbook, several criteria such as structure type, size and openness, approaches to structure, and structure spacing and site selection are some important factors that must be considered when designing effective crossing structures to address the negative impacts of linear infrastructure for elephants.

"Train collisions with Asian elephants are a significant and well-documented source of mortality, especially in India. Various factors contribute to this mortality, including ecological factors, railway physical factors (steep embankments and curves), technical factors (train speed, frequency, and time of travel), elephant behavior, and lack of awareness among operators and planners. Train-related elephant mortalities are higher near curves and areas adjacent to heavy forest cover that reduces visibility," noted the handbook.

Careful analysis needed

However, some wildlife conservationists say these guidelines should be carefully analyzed before implementing them in a landscape such as that of Karnataka. They opine that implementing the guidelines and modifying structures will impact the ecology and biodiversity of the area. While all the measures mentioned in the handbook might bring down the number of cases in the case of rail tracks, the situation with highways in Karnataka is different due to the state's topography. "The state's landscape itself is wildlife friendly. Thus bare minimum interventions are required to bring down the number of road kills inside reserve forests and protected areas. Installing scientific speed bumps and reflectors at every bend and corner of these roads should be sufficient. The frequency of speed bumps can also be increased so they act as deterrents for people to use these routes. In addition to these, ramblers should be replaced with speed bumps. The National Highway Authority of India has guidelines on the design and installation of speed bumps, which should be closely followed," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher at the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

White-topping has raked up the muck

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are completed as early as possible to avoid inconvenience during the monsoon. Expressing disgust over the delay in completing the white topping work, Ganesh Singh, a resident, said that it has become tough to commute on the RT Nagar Main Road due to the ongoing developmental works. "BBMP must complete the work without any further delay. The work began more than a year ago," said Singh. Appealing to the BBMP authorities to speed up the work, Lokesh Shetty, a resident, said that pedestrians are facing problems walking on the footpath as the contractor has dumped construction material on it. "The white topping work is progressing at a snail's pace. The BBMP must try and complete the white topping work before the onset of monsoon," said Shetty.

Loss of business

The delay in completing the white topping work has also affected business on RT Nagar Main Road. Businessmen complain that they lost 50 percent of business due to the ongoing developmental works. "The footfalls have come down by more than 50 percent due to lack of parking space. All these days, there was a lot of dust. Now, the road has become slushy due to rain. It looks like the BBMP may take some more time to complete the white topping work," said a hotelier on the condition of anonymity. Emphasising the need of completing the white topping work on a time-bound manner to avoid inconvenience to the public, Jyothi Bhat, an advocate and resident of RT Nagar, said that the BBMP should sign an agreement with the contractor. The agreement should have a penalty clause against the delay in completing the work.

"Releasing funds on time to the contractor by the BBMP is also important to enable the contractor to complete the developmental works without any hassles," said Bhat. Meanwhile, BBMP Chief Engineer Lokesh said that vehicular movement has been affecting the progress of the developmental works on RT Nagar Main Road. "Shifting of utilities and laying pipes and construction of drains took much time. All the ongoing works will be completed in one month," the Chief Engineer said.

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Metro connectivity boosts growth in Mysuru road

Metro connectivity along Mysuru Road has emerged as a catalyst for real estate growth, attracting buyers and investors alike. The strategic placement of metro stations has significantly influenced property trends, leading to a surge in demand for plots located near these stations. This shift in preference is driven by several factors, including improved connectivity, enhanced infrastructure, and the promise of higher returns on investment. One of the key drivers of real estate growth along Mysuru Road is the seamless connectivity offered by the metro network.

Ravi Shyam, a real estate agent said, "The metro connectivity has revolutionized the

property market along Mysuru Road. Buyers are now keen on properties near metro stations due to the convenience and accessibility they offer. Accessibility plays a crucial role in influencing property decisions, and metro connectivity has become a game-changer in this regard. Commuters find it easier to travel to key employment hubs and commercial centers, reducing commute times and enhancing overall convenience." Priya Krishnamurthy, a a homebuyer added, "The metro has made my daily commute much smoother. I no longer have to worry about traffic congestion or delays, which has significantly improved my quality of life. Apart from improved connectivity, metro stations also act as hubs of economic activity, driving commercial development in the surrounding areas. This, in turn, leads to an increase in demand for residential properties as people seek to live close to their workplaces. The presence of metro stations attracts commercial establishments, leading to job opportunities. As a result, more people are looking to buy or invest in properties near these stations."

-Prakash VL

Buyers' heaven

The Nelamangala-Railway Gollahalli Road has emerged as a hotspot for real estate growth, attracting both buyers and investors due to several factors that contribute to its appeal and potential for development. The strategic location, improved infrastructure, and increasing demand for residential and commercial spaces have contributed to the rapid growth of the real estate sector in this area. One of the primary drivers of real estate growth on Nelamangala Railway Gollahalli Road is its strategic location. Situated in close proximity to major transportation hubs such as Nelamangala, highways this area offers excellent connectivity to other parts of Bengaluru and neighboring regions. This connectivity factor is a significant draw for homebuyers and investors looking for properties that provide easy access to employment centers, educational institutions, and commercial hubs.

Furthermore, the ongoing infrastructure development projects in and around Nelamangala Railway Gollahalli Road have further fuelled real estate growth. "Road widening projects, improved connectivity, and the development of basic amenities such as water supply, electricity, and sanitation facilities have enhanced the overall livability of the area. This development has attracted developers and buyers alike, leading to increased investment in residential and commercial projects.

-Prakash VL

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Find a plot to fit all your needs at Kaggalipura

Kaggalipura, located on the southern edge of Bengaluru, has witnessed rapid growth in recent years, owing to several key factors that have contributed to its development as a thriving real estate destination. Kaggalipura which is on the strategic Kanakapura highway which is now being four-laned. The area boasts of affordable plots, metro connectivity, improved infrastructure facilities, presence of educational institutions, and other amenities have collectively fuelled the growth of the real estate sector.

One of the primary drivers of growth on Kanakapura road is the four-laning of the highway connecting the town to Bengaluru. This infrastructure upgrade has significantly improved connectivity and reduced travel time between the two areas, making Kaggalipura more accessible to commuters and businesses. Suresha K, a property developer in the region, said, "The four-laning of the highway has opened up new opportunities for real estate development in Kanakapura. It has made the town more accessible, attracting buyers and investors looking for affordable properties. Another key factor contributing to Kanakapura's growth is the availability of affordable plots for residential and commercial development. The town offers a range of options, from small plots suitable for individual homes to larger plots suitable for mixed-use developments. This affordability factor has attracted buyers looking to invest in land and develop properties according to their preferences."

Shweta, a homebuyer who recently purchased a plot in Kaggalipura said, "I chose Kaggalipura because of the affordable land prices and the potential for future growth. It's a good investment opportunity. Furthermore, the metro connectivity has generated considerable interest among homebuyers and investors. In addition to improved connectivity and affordability, Kaggalipura offers a range of infrastructure facilities that contribute to its appeal. The town boasts of well-developed roads, water supply, electricity, and sanitation systems, making it a conducive environment for residential and commercial development. The presence of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, shopping centers, and recreational amenities further adds to the town's livability quotient, attracting families looking for a well-rounded lifestyle."

Real estate property developers in Kanakapura are optimistic about the town's growth potential and are actively investing in various projects to cater to the growing demand. Mr. Rajesh, a developer with projects in Kanakapura, states, "We see tremendous potential in Kanakapura as a real estate destination. The demand for residential and commercial properties is high." **–Prakash VL**

Real estate: Growth trajectory and strategic imperatives

Real estate sector is set to grow further in years to come. Knight Frank India's recent report, 'Indian Real Estate: A Decade from Now', in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), paints a robust picture of India's real estate sector. The report forecasts a substantial leap, projecting the sector's value to soar to an estimated USD 1.5 trillion by 2034, contributing significantly to the nation's economic output. This comprehensive analysis delves into various segments of the real estate industry, highlighting key projections, challenges, and strategic recommendations.

Explosive Growth Projections

The report projects a remarkable growth trajectory, with the residential market expected to lead, reaching a value of USD 906 billion by 2034. This surge in value is attributed to India's burgeoning urban population, estimated to reach 1.55 billion by 2034, with a significant proportion residing in urban centers. The rise in lower-middle and upper-middle-income brackets, along with an increase in High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNIs), will fuel demand across affordable, mid-segment, and luxury housing, generating substantial market value output.

Commercial Real Estate Dynamics

India's commercial real estate sector is poised for substantial growth, driven by factors such as business expansion, infrastructure development, and the rise of IT and services industries. The report anticipates an additional requirement of 1.7 billion sq ft of office space by 2034 to accommodate the growing formal workforce and economic activities. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are expected to play a pivotal role, further boosting the demand for office spaces.

Warehousing and Industrial Land:

With the strong correlation between economic growth and rising income levels, India's warehousing market is projected to experience significant demand, generating revenue of USD 8.9 billion by 2034. The manufacturing sector is also poised for expansion, necessitating an estimated 2 million hectares of industrial land by 2034, with potential revenue of USD 28 billion.

Retail & Private Equity Investments

The retail sector is expected to witness a surge, comprising 21% of total private consumption by 2034, supporting retail real estate growth. Private equity investments in real estate are projected to rise significantly, reaching USD 14.9 billion by 2034, driven by emerging sectors such as data centers, healthcare, hospitality, and co-working spaces.

Ideas for Sustainable Growth

The report highlights key recommendations for ensuring sustainable growth in India's real estate sector. Firstly, it emphasizes the critical need for manpower development. This involves addressing the existing skill gap within the sector by implementing tailored training modules, fostering collaborations between academia and industry, and encouraging professional certifications.

By enhancing the skill sets of the workforce, the sector can improve operational efficiency and meet the evolving demands of the market.

Log removal still lags behind in burial ground

Despite assurances, BBMP Forest Department fails to clear logs at Sir Khazi Mohammed Abdul Khuddus Burial Ground in Nandi Durga Road for over 5 months

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Logs left unattended at the burial ground

It appears that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department is not responsible for clearing fallen trees at burial grounds. Despite assurances over the past five months, the department has only managed to cut the fallen branches into pieces, without removing the logs.

It should be noted that the BBMP Forest Department failed to clear the fallen tree branches at Sir Khazi Mohammed Abdul Khuddus Burial Ground on Nandi Durga Road during the last monsoon.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Fallen Trees, a Grave Concern" on March 16, detailing how fallen tree logs have become a hindrance for people wishing to visit Sir Khazi Mohammed Abdul Khuddus Burial Ground. Subsequently, Bangalore Mirror also ran another story, "Fallen and Burned: Will the Logs Be Removed?" which described how the BBMP Forest Department failed to engage one of the contractors assigned to clear the fallen trees, which had been waiting for clearance for the past five months.

Fallen trees, a grave concern

BM article on March 16, detailing how fallen tree logs have become a hindrance in the burial ground

The BBMP contractor had employed workers to cut the fallen tree branches into pieces but left the logs at the same spot without removing them. "I am fed up with the apathy of the BBMP Forest Department. I was very happy when the BBMP Forest Department contractor called me and assured me that all the logs would be cleared from the burial ground, but nothing has been done to remove them to date. I appeal to the BBMP Forest Department to clear the logs to allow people to visit the burial ground without any problems," said Iftekhar Ahmed, a resident of Frazer Town. When informed of the situation, the BBMP Forest Department contractor responsible for cutting the trees said he would assign workers to clear the logs. "Currently, there are many tree falls in the west zone. The logs will be removed from the burial ground soon," said contractor Channappa.

> **"Currently, there are many tree falls in the west zone. The logs will be removed from the burial ground soon** – Channappa, BBMP contractor

Light, at last

Citizens join forces to end a five-year struggle for illumination, transforming the park into safer and more vibrant communal space

Solar lamps being installed at the park

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Balaji Layout Park, adjacent to the Vajrahalli Metro Station on Kanakapura Road, is finally seeing light after a prolonged period of darkness. Thanks to the intervention of residents and a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by ZYMUS Hospital, the park has been fitted with new lights, much to the relief of the local community. This development marks the end of a five-year-long struggle for illumination.

In 2015, residents successfully petitioned their elected representatives to allocate funds for installing solar lamps in the park. The project, costing Rs 4 lakh, initially brought much-needed light to the area, making it safer and more welcoming for the community. However, by 2019, the solar lights had deteriorated, leaving the park in darkness once again. Despite numerous complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the lights were not repaired, and the park remained unlit. The darkness posed significant safety concerns, deterring many residents from using the park, especially after dusk. Frequented by people from nearby BDA Layout, Nanjundeshwara Layout, Pavanna Layout, Reshmi Nagar, and other neighbourhoods, the park saw a drastic drop in visitors due to the lack of lighting.

After years of frustration, the residents took matters into their own hands. They approached ZYMUS Hospital on Kanakapura Road for assistance. Recognising the community's need, the hospital agreed to fund the installation of new lights through its CSR programme. The Changemakers of Kanakapura Road Association played a crucial role in coordinating this effort.

Srivatsa, a representative from the Changemakers of Kanakapura, shared the community's journey. "Permission was obtained from BBMP, spaces needed to be dug to get the new electrical connection, and after permission was granted, works to fix eight lights began. After five years, we can finally see light in this park," he said.

The illumination of Balaji Layout Park is more than just a physical enhancement; it represents a significant improvement in the quality of life for the area's residents. With the new lights in place, the park is now a safer and more inviting space for evening walks, recreational activities, and social gatherings. It also reinstates the park as a communal hub, fostering a sense of security and community spirit.

Residents can now enjoy the park without hesitation, and the added illumination has mitigated safety concerns, encouraging more people to utilise the green space. This initiative highlights the importance of community engagement and the impact of CSR projects in addressing local issues.

The successful illumination of the park stands as a testament to the power of collective action.

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No drain path
Puttenahalli

Puttenahalli Lake, a protected bird sanctuary managed by the forest department, rightfully prohibits drainage into it. Citizens request maintaining the original water path to prevent issues during monsoon.

Water the trees
Richmond Town

On Alexander Road in Richmond Town, a tree on the footpath stands dry and in need of attention.

Excavation issue
Guruppanapalya

The BWSSB pipeline connections have been under excavation for the past three months. Despite the work being completed in March, citizens continue to face numerous problems due to the road condition.

5 things to do on a girls' night out

These are ways by which you can kick your party with friends into the fifth gear

I read somewhere that good friendships make you healthier— literally—increasing your life span, enhancing your immune system and making you feel generally happier. So go ahead, call your gang of girls and get ready for a pamperfest on a girls' night out! While you are burning the lines to gather your tribe, I have zeroed in on five ideas that should kick this party into the fifth gear!

1) Party all night

This one may sound like a cliché, but what better way to bring your glamorous fashionista to the fore than this? Top off your night with drunken conversations, laughs and booty dances and you have lived one of the perfect girls night.

2) Driving Ms Daisy

Get your girls, get your car, get your favourite music, some snacks and head out for a long night drive to absolutely nowhere. Enjoy the night driving around with no destination, your favourite squad music and of course all those conversations that you can never have with anybody except your ladies.

3) At the marquee

All those sappy chick flicks that you guys have wanted to watch over the years in one huge movie marathon night together. Cry your eyes out over how that lead guy in that movie died for that pretty girl who never cared about him.

4) Libatious encounter

There is nothing better than wine and effortless conversations. But to have those conversations you need to get the wine down. Play some games with your girls too.

5) Sing along

Go to that karaoke bar you have heard of and sing your favourite tunes with your squad cheering you on in the background and dancing away to your shrill voice. Be the pop stars you have always dreamt of being for one night.

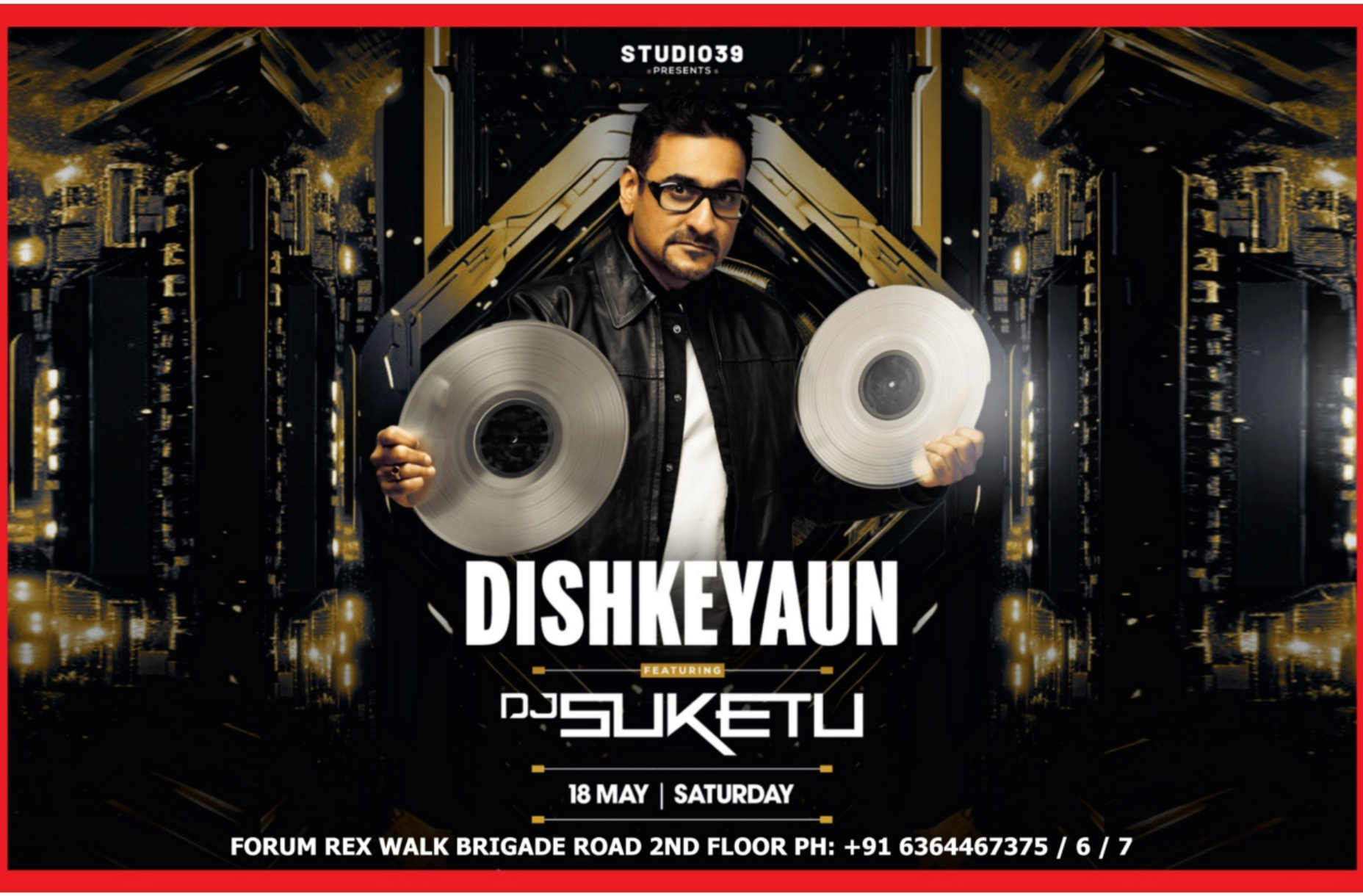
-Femina

2 cocktail trends

Experiential cocktails: Experiential cocktails go beyond taste to engage the senses. Bartenders incorporate interactive elements such as smoking, infusion with dry ice, molecular gastronomy techniques, and unique serving vessels to create memorable and immersive drinking experiences. These cocktails are visually striking, often featuring dramatic presentations, colour-changing effects, or captivating garnishes that add an element of excitement and anticipation. Experiential cocktails often tell a story or evoke a specific theme, allowing customers to connect with the drink on a deeper level beyond its taste and presentation.

Clarified cocktails are still on the rise: Clarified cocktails continue to gain popularity for their crystal-clear appearance and intense flavours. Techniques like milk washing, centrifugation, or filtration are used to remove impurities while retaining the essence and depth of flavour. Bartenders are experimenting with bold flavour combinations in clarified cocktails, such as tropical fruits with herbs, spices with citrus, or floral infusions with botanicals, creating unexpected but delightful taste experiences.

-IANS



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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

NATURE'S PALETTE

A hibiscus flower looks bright and beautiful even after a spell of heavy overnight rain

The picture was clicked by reader **Venkatalakshmi Sridhar**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Near-threatened 'painted storks' spotted in city

Bird population in Bengaluru has declined, 90% decrease in migratory birds in the last few years: Ornithologists

Bengaluru, which was considered a city of lakes, also attracted a lot of migratory birds. However, ornithologists say that there has been a 90 per cent decrease in migratory birds in the last few years. With the decline of the bird population in Bengaluru, sighting any avian species has become an unexpected delight.

Renuka Phadnis, a local, said, "Bengaluru's fast-paced urbanisation and development into India's silicon city have undoubtedly had a direct impact on its urban bird sanctuaries. Naturally, the spotting of painted storks in Madiwala Lake during the early hours of April 6 was a welcome surprise for regular passersby. The painted stork is a non-migratory water bird found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. They are frequently observed in Bengaluru's lakes and water bodies. These large storks are vibrantly coloured with a combination of white, black, yellow, pink, and orange hues, making them hard to miss in their natural habitats."

Dr MB Krishna, a renowned ecologist and ornithologist, has been a regular member of the Birdwatchers' Field Club of Bengaluru and has a keen interest in bird and habitat conservation. When asked to comment on the decline in biodiversity, more specifically the bird population in the city, he said, "From the mid-nineties to now, the waterbird populations have seen a tremendous decline. We may not have lost variety, but populations in our lakes have definitely fallen by about 80–90 per cent. Some of the birdwatchers in Bengaluru would monitor the bird populations as an annual monitoring exercise for the decade preceding 1996, and we can see a lot of change now. Gargany and pintail ducks would come in thousands, but they are hardly to be seen now. Shorebirds, like sandpipers, were also much more abundant."

The regular passersby saw painted storks in Madiwala Lake during early hours on April 6

Experts say that Bengaluru's lakes and water bodies have significantly fallen in number over the past couple of decades due to reasons ranging from encroachments, landfilling, pollution, and over exploitation of resources. This has consequently resulted in a steep decline in biodiversity reserves in the city, once known for its abundance of lakes and pleasant weather.

— Ankita Govind

File photo of painted storks at Jakkur Lake in Bengaluru

DID YOU KNOW?

Bengaluru's Kempegowda Bus Station, known colloquially as Majestic bus stand, was built on a lake. The station is located on the site of the Dharmambudhi Lake, which dried up in the early 20th century. In the 1960s, it turned into a full-fledged bus stand after it was discovered that the lake could no longer contain water. Construction on the bus station began in 1965, and it opened up in 1969. However, the semi-circular city bus terminal that you see today was only built in the 1980s. The station acquired the name 'Majestic' from a popular cinema theatre of the same name located nearby and is still being used despite the theatre not existing today. It was later named as Kempegowda Bus Station in honour of Kempe Gowda I, the founder of Bengaluru.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

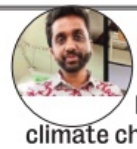
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

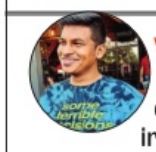
where Bengalureans speak their mind

With CSIR asking its employees to go easy on ironing their clothes, tell us, would you be willing to wear wrinkled clothes to do your bit to stall climate change?

D Satyanarayana, BM Reader
If employees visit the office with wrinkled clothes without ironing, their personalities in front of others will be taken for a ride. Adhering to the dress code won't affect the climate much. Instead of this, save trees and lakes, which are used for constructing unauthorised buildings.



Siddarth, BM Reader
We need to have a moderate, balanced approach to "ironing out" climate change. Instead, begin with switching off ACs for one hour every week in huge work spaces or enforce the use of recycled water and rainwater harvesting.



Vishnu, BM Reader
I won't be willing to wear wrinkled clothes to the office. Giving up ironing is only a temporary solution for the climate; rather, we should think about replacing the source of energy with renewable sources of energy.

Riyyan Alam, BM Reader
By not ironing clothes, it won't put a dent in the carbon emissions that are created by billions of people burning fossil fuels. Hence, I won't stop ironing my clothes.

Varshitha B Iyer, BM Reader
No, I would not prefer wearing wrinkled clothing, as it depicts the interest we show in our work. Ironed clothes and their perfectness give us confidence and courage to face day-to-day issues.

Gayathri T, BM Reader
An ironed dress shows a person's character. It gives confidence and respect to a person and also makes them feel fresh for a positive start to the day. Hence, I am definitely going to iron my clothes.

SPEAK TO US

Which are the badly maintained lakes of Benglauru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

KSRTC driver caught on camera using mobile phone

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has begun an enquiry into the errant driver caught using a mobile phone while driving on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. Ramanagar traffic police station will book the driver.

After the installation of 60 CCTV cameras on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, a KSRTC driver was caught using a mobile phone while driving the vehicle near Shri Chamundeshwari Hospital (Channapatna) on May 12. According to police officials, the driver was caught on CCTV for mobile phone usage and a lane violation. The driver has been identified as a Hunsur Depot Driver on a Mysore Rural division bus.

ADGP Training, Traffic & Road Safety, Karnataka, Bengaluru, Alok Kumar, took to X (formerly Twitter) to highlight the issue and asked KSRTC to take action against the driver. Apart from the driver, the post also highlighted three other car owners who were caught violating the same rule.

Speaking to BM, Alok Kumar said they would be asking KSRTC to not just fine the driver but also initiate disciplinary action. "We have seen violations involving buses in the past and have informed them. We will be asking KSRTC to not just fine the driver but also initiate disciplinary action. We will also be writing to the concerned authority regarding this and initiating sensitisation programs for drivers. A bus driver's violation endangers nearly 30-40 passengers, not just the driver's life. We have also asked Ramanagar police station to book him for using a mobile phone while driving and lane violations," he added.

He also mentioned that many violations are seen on highways that prohibit the entry of two-wheelers. "Most of the violations are for not wearing seat belts. We have recorded nearly 12,192 seat belt violations, 6,000 speeding cases, 2,000 lane violations, and 100 cases of using mobile phones while driving," he added.

A KSRTC official told BM that they have started an enquiry into the violation. "We have already identified the driver and division, and we will take action as per conduct rules after conducting an enquiry," they added.

Bengaluru takes steps to document its biodiversity

Revived Biodiversity Management Committee submits financial plan to update long-pending people's register

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is in the early stages of documenting the city's biodiversity.

According to the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the recently revived committee has submitted a financial plan for all operations, including updating the long-pending People's Biodiversity Register (PBR).

BBMP officials told BM that the committee has submitted a zone-wise draft budget to begin cataloguing Bengaluru's biodiversity.

"BMC has submitted a budgetary requirement of Rs 14.85 lakh to document the biodiversity of Rajarajeshwari Nagar and update the PBR accordingly. Similarly, budget estimates for other BBMP zones will also be provided by the committee for approval soon," said a senior official from BBMP's Forest Department.

As per the proposal submitted by BMC, the money will be used for various activities required to record current flora and fauna.

This includes the formation of zone-wise BMCs, sensitisation of the public about the study, surveys and possible management strategies, training of members in identifying and collecting data on biological resources and traditional knowledge, analysis and validation of data in consultation with a technical support group, preparation of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), and computerisation of information and resources.

The budget will also cover the strenuous task of data collection by field experts in consultation with BMC members.

> **"BMC has submitted a budget requirement of Rs 14.85 lakh to document the biodiversity of RR Nagar and update the PBR accordingly**
>
> –Senior offical, BBMP Forest Department

According to the draft budget document, data collection will include a review of literature on the natural resources of the districts, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRAs) at the village level, household surveys, individual interviews with village leaders and experts, NGOs, and direct field observations.

"BMC members will soon be meeting higher officials from BBMP to finalise the budget. A detailed plan of action to record and document Bengaluru's biodiversity will also be drawn up. The department has extended its full support to the process so far. Under the project, we plan to document every detail about Bengaluru's biodiversity and set up a transparent system. Once updated, the PBR will be uploaded to the public domain," said Vijay Nishant, a member of BMC and founder of Project Vruksha.

In November last year, BM reported that BMC's first meeting took place after a long gap of nearly four years. The meeting was called by BBMP to ensure the city's biodiversity is documented and steps are taken to conserve it.

As per the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) 2002, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee must then create a PBR, which is a repository of traditional knowledge of local biological resources.

The idea behind the PBR is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of local biological resources while securing equitable sharing of benefits that come from these resources. An order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) a couple of years back specified that the PBR should be updated at regular intervals. While Bengaluru's PBR was created in 2010, it has not been updated since.

City-based environmental activists say the document, once updated by BMC, will serve as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity and will help create awareness towards conservation activities.

"Bengaluru has undergone a drastic change over the last decade due to a plethora of infrastructure and development activities. It is time that Bengaluru's PBR is updated soon and future activities are planned based on the findings of this exercise," said an environmentalist.

Revanna's anticipatory bail extended till May 20

A court here on Friday extended the interim anticipatory bail granted to JD(S) MLA and former Karnataka Minister HD Revanna in a sexual harassment case until May 20, while reserving orders on his anticipatory bail plea until then. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (ACMM) had earlier heard the matter on Thursday and had given the 66-year-old interim relief until today.

The sexual harassment case registered against Revanna and his son, MP Prajwal Revanna, at Holenarsipur town police station on April 28 pertains to the alleged sexual harassment of a 47-year-old house help. Prajwal reportedly left for Germany on April 27 and is still at large. The complainant had claimed that the father and son had sexually harassed her at the MLA's residence.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged sexual abuse charges against Prajwal and related cases had sought custody of the former Minister. Revanna's advocates sought anticipatory bail in the case. SIT had sent two notices to Revanna and Prajwal to appear before them for questioning in the case, but both of them skipped it.

On Thursday, Revanna applied for anticipatory bail, and SIT objected to this and sought either SIT or judicial custody. The court, after hearing both sides, decided to hear the matter again on Friday and gave relief to Revanna until then.

The court resumed the hearing today and, after hearing both sides, reserved the order on the bail plea for Monday and extended interim bail until then. A Special Court for Elected Representatives on Monday granted bail to Revanna in connection with a kidnap case. He was arrested by SIT on May 4 in an alleged case of abduction of a woman, linked to the allegations of sexual abuse of women by Prajwal.

The 33-year-old Prajwal is facing charges of multiple instances of sexually abusing women. An Interpol Blue Corner Notice has been issued against Prajwal in an effort to bring him back. He was the BJP-JD(S) alliance's joint candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha segment, which went to polls on April 26. —PTI

Light to moderate rain, thunderstorms in B'luru

While a few districts of Karnataka are expected to see heavy rainfall and thunderstorms, Bengaluru is likely to witness light to moderate rain and thunderstorms, with temperatures ranging from 30°C to 22°C in the next 24 hours.

Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Hassan, Mysuru, Mandya, Chamrajanagara, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfalls between May 17 and 21, said CS Patil, Director of Meteorological Centre, India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru.

Some places in Kodagu, Hassan, Mysuru, Mandya and Tumukuru will also witness gusty winds (40-50 kmph) on May 18.

Moderate rain and thundershowers are also likely in Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, Davangere, Kolar, Ramanagara and Vijayanagara. IMD also predicts light to moderate rain very likely at some places over Bagalkote, Belagavi, Bidar, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburgi, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir districts.

On May 16, Channagiri in Davanagere district received the highest rainfall of 6 cm. —PTI

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMOGHA CHIDAMBARA RAJA alias AMOGHA C RAJA D/o. Sheshadri Chidambara Raja, residing at No. 55, 6th Cross, 7th Block, J.P Nagar, 9th Phase, BDA Layout, Raghavanapalya, Bengaluru-560062 declaring that AMOGHA CHIDAMBARA RAJA and AMOGHA C RAJA both the names are one and belongs to me only, in future my name will be as AMOGHA C RAJA only, vide affidavit dated 16.05.2024, sworn before notary B.K.R Krishnamurthy, Bengaluru.

I, Asha Raghu, R/a flat no 201, 2nd Floor, No, 102, Kalpatharu Renaissance, 9th cross, 6th main road, Malleshwaram Bangalore 560003. As my name changed from Asha K.S to Asha Raghu, the same change has been done in my daughter Upasana Raghu's birth certificate in mother's name column. Hereafter the same will be carried in all her records. Vide affidavit dated 17-05-24 sworn before notary Vanajakshi R B'lore.

I, Tahseen Kausar Khan R/at No.22, 4th Floor, Palms Height, 6th Cross, Vijaya Bank Colony, Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043 Have changed my name to Thaseen Kauser Khan, For All Purposes.

I,JIANA SAKLECHA D/O HITESH MAHENDRA KUMAR SAKLECHA,R/a No.13, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road Cross,Rukmini Colony, Ulsoor,Benagalore-560042.Have Changed My Name From JIANA SAKLECHA To JIA SAKLECHA.Vide Affidavit Date:17/05/2024.Sworn Before Notary:PRAKASHA.C

I, SAVITHA MAHESH, Residing at No. F1, B-Block, SV Jasmine Apartment, 5th Cross Road, Raghuvanahalli, Kanakpura Road, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name to SAVITHA MAHESH MURTHY, vide affidavit dated: 14.05.2024 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

I, Sathwik punja, S/o radhakrishna punja . B710 subha building 9 sky vue appartment opposite marsur RTO office byagadadenahalli anekal taluk Bangalore district pin code 562106, change my name to Sathwik radhakrishna punja for all future purposes.

I, Shreyanka Pattanshetti, Daughter of Basavaraj Pattanshetti residing at No 54, 8th A Main, Canara Bank Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore- 560 097, Change my name to Shreyanka B Pattanshetti for all future purposes.

I, KANJAN M M S/o Late. Mahableshwar, resident of No. 237, Kavery Krupa, 1st J Cross, Sharada Colony, Basavesh waranagar, Bangalore-560079 have changed my name to MADHUKAR M KANJAN, vide affidavit dt: 17.05.2024 before notary Natesh .D, B.lore.

I Lavanya J R D/O, Ramamurthy Joish R/o Flat No 307, Block B, Satellite Splendor Apartments, Suncity Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru - 560060 Karnataka have changed my name to Lavanya Joish Ramamurthy.

I, Rinku Kumari Ostwal R/o Manpremsadan,5th Main,2nd Cross,Near Manasa Hospital, Vijayanagar, B'luru-40 have changed my name to Rinku for all purposes.

I Shruti Sheth (alias) Shruthi Sheth Anil W/O, Kewal Hitendra Bakhai R/o No 19, 2nd Main Road, Behind Swastik Complex, Seshadripuram Bengaluru – 560020. Karnataka have changed my name to Shruti Sheth Anil.

I Sumithramma W/o Sridhar M R/o 57/9,7th cross, Srigand - haada Kavalu, Kottigepalya, Vishwaneedam po, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Sumithramma Sridhar, affidavit Dt.17/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Anthony S/O, Antobrown R/o Meghas Kamala Residency Flat No 508 4th Floor Srs Road Peenya Bengaluru - 560058 have changed my name to Anthony Antobrown.

I, VASIM KHAN, R/a No.112, Sanjay Urdu School Rd, Neharu Lyt, Malur, Dist Kolar - 563130. I, have changed my name to WASEEM KHAN Vide affidavit dated 17.05.2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan

I Suhasini Sachudhananadhan W/O, Sachudaanandaan Naveen R/o Flat No A1012 Slv Central Park Bidare Agrahara Bandapura Road Bangalore 560049 have changed my name to Suhasini Sachudaanandaan.

I, Hema Chetan W/o Chetan. B, R/@ No.273, 2nd Phase, 2nd Stage, 10th Cross, Manjunath Nagar, Bengaluru-560010 have changed my name to Hema.D for all purposes.

I, Mohamad Ikram Ulla S/o Ismailzabhiulla R/o #45 B Cross Pipe Line Rd Iiyas Nagar, J P Nagar 6th Phase, B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Mohammed Ikram Ulla for all purposes

I, MUSHRAFULLA KHAN.S, R/a No.3038/1, Vivekananda Nagar Bangarpet-563114 I, have changed my name to, MUSHARFFULLA KHAN Vide affidavit dated 17.05.2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan

I, Srinivasa A R/o No.6, 4th cross, Venkatadri Badavani, JP nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to SRINIVAS V A affidavit Dt.17/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Burhanuddin s/o Joon Abbas R/o #45 Farida Villa Amakine Burhaniyah B G Rd Gottigere B'luru-560083 have changed my name to Burhanuddin Joon for all purposes.

I Sreedevi Thankappa Menon (passport # L9367053) W/O, Thankappa Menon R/o F1304, Nikoo Homes 2, Bhartiya City, Off Thanisandra Main Road, Chokanahalli, Bengaluru - 560064 have changed my name to Sreedevi Menon.

I Nithyananda S/o Thimmappa Poojari R/o 13, 1st Flr, Rathnan -agara, Near Ayur Ashrama, Doddagollarahatti, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Nithyananda Thimmappa Poojari, Affidavit Dt.17/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Anushka Anmol Kumar W/o Raman Pruthi R/o Flat-121220 Shobha Dream Acres Varthur Bangalore, Karnataka -560087 have changed my name to Anushka Pruthi

MISSING

MISSING

Satyanarayana Age 60, Missing from Banashankari, Bangalore, Mentally retarded. Suitable reward is considered 10000. *Wearing Purple Shirt and Grey Jeans*
Contact: 9986450482

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 # Makes us proud
Prateik Babbar says his mother Smita Patil would've been 'incredibly proud' of 'Manthan' Cannes screening

Stunner at Cannes

Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan walked the Cannes red carpet for the premiere of Francis Ford Coppola's "Megalopolis" in a stunning black gown by designers Falguni & Shane Peacock.

A regular at the Cannes Film Festival for the past two decades, Aishwarya struck a pose in the monochrome gown adorned with 3D metallic elements and golden accents while walking the red carpet.

The custom-made creation showcased a corset-inspired silhouette and a floor-sweeping train.

The 50-year-old actor was attending the premiere of Hollywood legend Coppola's latest movie "Megalopolis", starring Adam Driver. Her right hand had a cast, which she has been wearing for an unspecified injury.

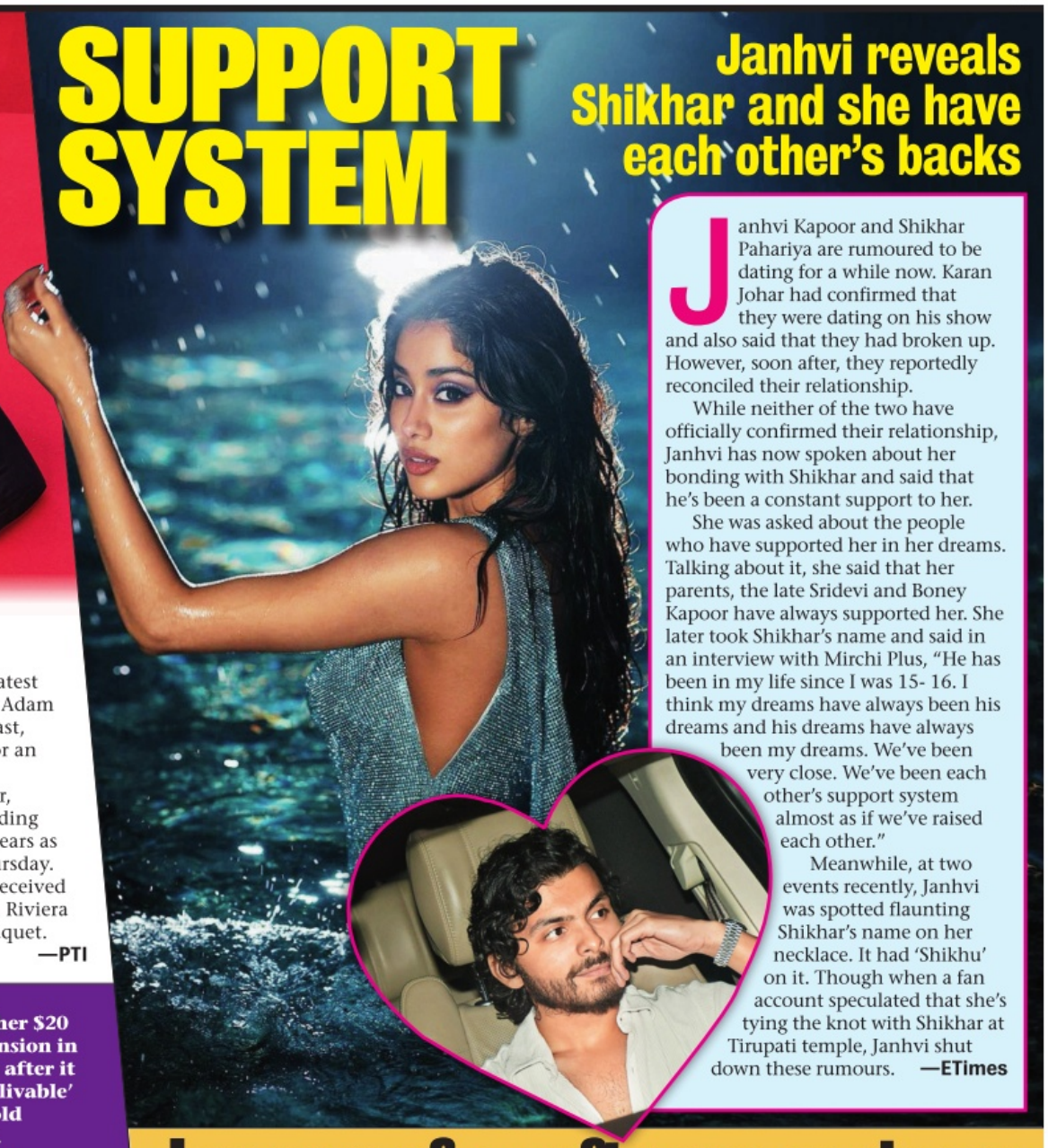
Aishwarya and her daughter, Aaradhya, who has been attending the film gala for the past few years as well, arrived at Cannes on Thursday.

The mother-daughter duo received a warm welcome at the French Riviera and were presented with a bouquet.

—PTI

SUPPORT SYSTEM

Janhvi reveals Shikhar and she have each other's backs



Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya are rumoured to be dating for a while now. Karan Johar had confirmed that they were dating on his show and also said that they had broken up. However, soon after, they reportedly reconciled their relationship.

While neither of the two have officially confirmed their relationship, Janhvi has now spoken about her bonding with Shikhar and said that he's been a constant support to her.

She was asked about the people who have supported her in her dreams. Talking about it, she said that her parents, the late Sridevi and Boney Kapoor have always supported her. She later took Shikhar's name and said in an interview with Mirchi Plus, "He has been in my life since I was 15- 16. I think my dreams have always been his dreams and his dreams have always been my dreams. We've been very close. We've been each other's support system almost as if we've raised each other."

Meanwhile, at two events recently, Janhvi was spotted flaunting Shikhar's name on her necklace. It had 'Shikhu' on it. Though when a fan account speculated that she's tying the knot with Shikhar at Tirupati temple, Janhvi shut down these rumours. —ETimes

Friday tip

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared some Friday advice about "trusting the process." The actress took to her Instagram stories and shared a picture of herself standing in front of a mirror with "trust the process" written on it.

She also shared a photo on Instagram, flaunting her perfect skin and strawberry pink lips, which she captioned "Strawberry days".

On Thursday, Priyanka shared a glimpse of her $20 million mansion in Los Angeles after it became 'unlivable' due to a mold infestation.

The actress returned to her home after shooting for her upcoming film 'Head of State', an action comedy directed by Ilya Naishuller, in Nice, France.

She had posted a picture from her balcony and captioned it, "Being home... is feeding my soul." —IANS

All applause

Actress Nimrat Kaur has reminisced about the sweet memory of her movie 'The Lunchbox', which was screened at the Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival 2013, recalling the 10 minutes standing ovation, saying it was something 'huge'.

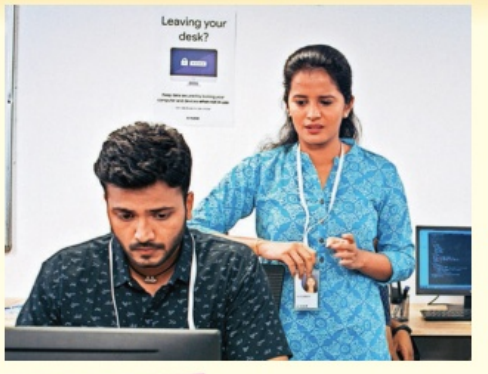
Recalling her memories of the Cannes film festival, Nimrat told IANS: "Well the first time 'The Lunchbox' was screened for the audience it was insane. We had a 10-minute standing ovation. And I didn't understand what was going on."

"I recall Irrfan Khan sir and director Ritesh Batra, me and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, all of us were standing and taking it all. And it did feel like the beginning of something huge. That is the one standout memory for me. Just that... post-screening the lights go out, and then came back on, that I will always remember... those 10 minutes," shared Nimrat.

Seven films from India are part of the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival this year.

Talking about the representation of Indian films on such a vast canvas globally, the actress, whose crime thriller 'Peddlers' was also screened at Cannes 2012, said: "We are the largest entertainment industry in the world. It's about time and it's wonderful the kind of work that's coming out, all types of boundaries that are being pushed, there's incredible content today." —IANS

Journey of a software engineer



Director Chethan Shetty, a software engineer, has tried to showcase the essence of his own experience and observations in the software industry. The movie portrays the lifestyle of software engineers and also throws light on petty politics, gossip, relationships and nepotism within the IT industry. The movie has succeeded in proving that IT companies are not different from other industries when it comes to promotions and salary hikes.

The movie begins with a group of employees at a software company gossiping and discussing their salary hike and nepotism at their workplace. Human resources manager Raksha asks Siddharth aka Siddhu (Vijay Surya) to meet her. She asks Siddhu why he has resigned despite the management offering him an onsite job. Siddhu says that he wants to join another company as it is offering him a better salary package.

Meanwhile, Navya (Swathi Vijaykumar), who also works at the same software company, asks Siddhu not to reject the onsite job offer because she also wants to work with him onsite. He falls in love with her. His colleague Shreyansu (Prithviraj) also advises him to demand a good hike in salary. However, Siddhu decides not to accept the onsite job.

SWITCH { CASE N
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Chethan Shetty
- **ACTORS** Vijay Surya, Shwetha Vijaykumar, Prithvi Raj, Adhyatha Bhat, Karthik Vaibhav, and Bala Rajwadi
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 142 minutes

What happens to Siddhu and Navya is what the movie is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Vijay Surya has acted well. His gestures and body language are good. Prithviraj, who plays a supporting role, is convincing. He will be an asset to Sandalwood if he focuses on honing his acting skills. His ability to deliver Kannada and Hindi dialogues are appreciable. Swathi Vijayakuamr looks good and her dialogue delivery is good.

The disadvantage of this movie is the lack of song sequences and comedy. It would have been better, if its duration was reduced by 20 minutes.

It is worth a watch if you want a peek into the world of techies. —Y Maheswara Reddy

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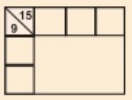
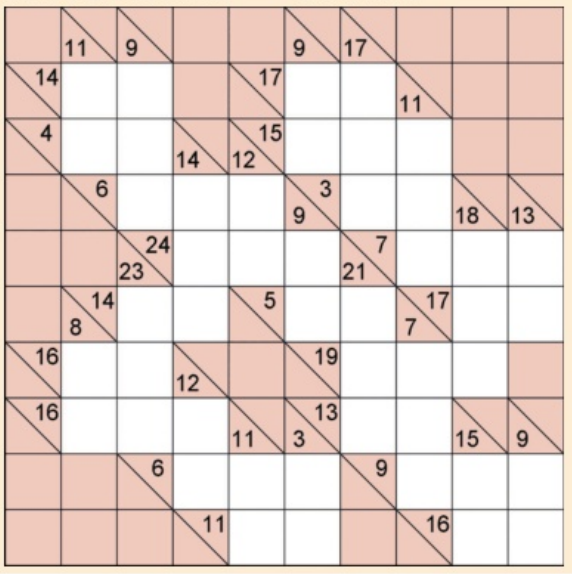
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

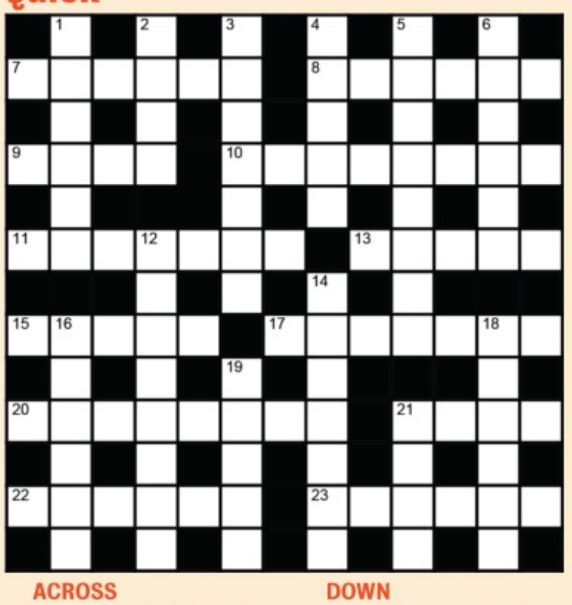


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Nosy ___ : a busybody? (6)
8 Hospital on Bannerghatta Road (6)
9 Distort (4)
10 Disease producing fits (8)
11 Chat show hostess Oprah ____ (7)
13 Beethoven's famous symphony (5)
15 Permit (5)
17 Whipped (7)
20 Without penalty (4,4)
21 Destroy by fire (4)
22 Sharper (6)
23 Capital of Assam (6)

DOWN

1 Popular tourist destination in Himachal Pradesh (6)
2 Jump over (4)
3 A climbing plant (7)
4 Attended or took part as a visitor? (3,2)
5 Hanging in the air (8)
6 Everything ready (3,3)
12 Covering with sugar icing, in a way? (8)
14 By now, previously (7)
16 Gym storage (6)
18 Severe scolding (6)
19 Ten million, in our country? (5)
21 Most desirable (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS C

IZQ'D YAFDW GZ DVSD JZK TSQ UW KQIWAGDZZI, YAFDW GZ DVSD JZK TSQ'D UW OFGKQIWAGDZZI.

Linemaro

I feel like a little kid wanting to be a hero for a book just so I could sweep omeone as beautiful as you off their feet

Mindchow

Today is a gift from god, which is why it's called the present

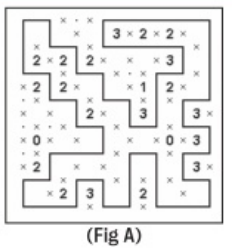
Joke of the day

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying

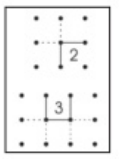
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

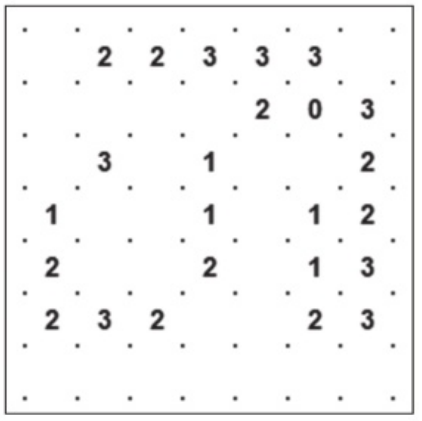


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				Y
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

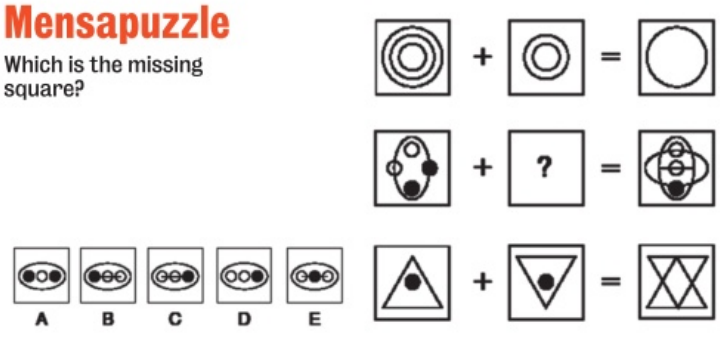
1 Sated; 6 Ry cur; 7 Al bed; 8 Carer; 9 Fab LS

DOWN

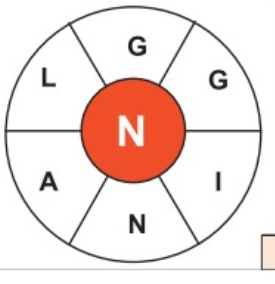
1 Sc far; 2 But Al; 3 Ceria; 4 Beard; 5 Dreys

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		4				6		
	3		4		6		1	
		2	8		7	3		
	7		6		4		8	
	6	8				5	4	
	9		2		8		3	
		5	7		2	4		
	4		5		1		2	
		6				1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

3 5 8 9

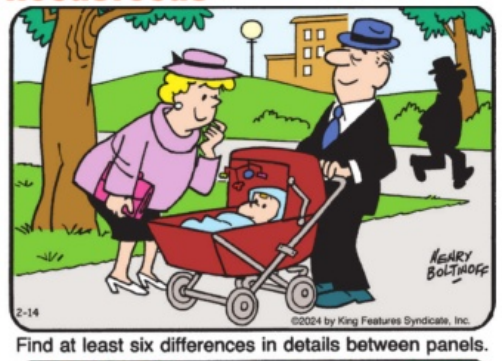
Medium = 20

2 5 8 9

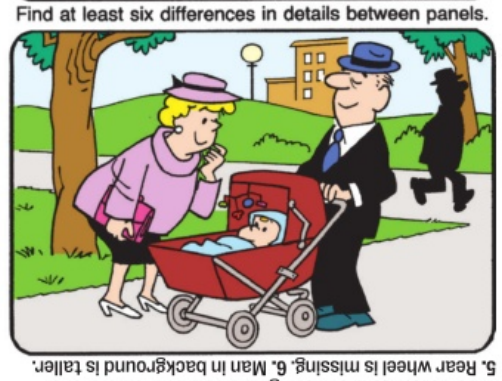
Hard = 25

1 5 5 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



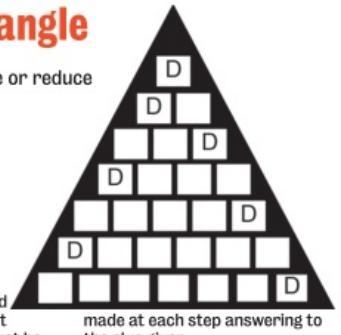
Differences: 1. Mobile is lower. 2. Woman's leg is moved. 3. Some leaves are missing. 4. Tree trunk is different. 5. Rear wheel is missing. 6. Man in background is taller.

Riddler

Up a hill, Down a hill, Over them I may roam, But after all my walking, There's no place like my own.

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Prefix for remove or reduce
3 Little Edward
4 Specified day
5 Loathed
6 Disengage
7 Mapped out

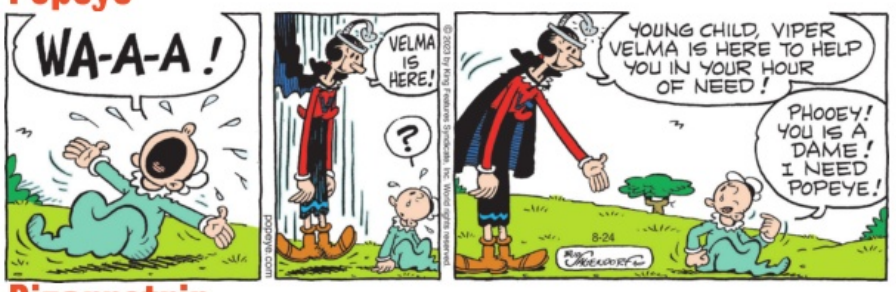


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



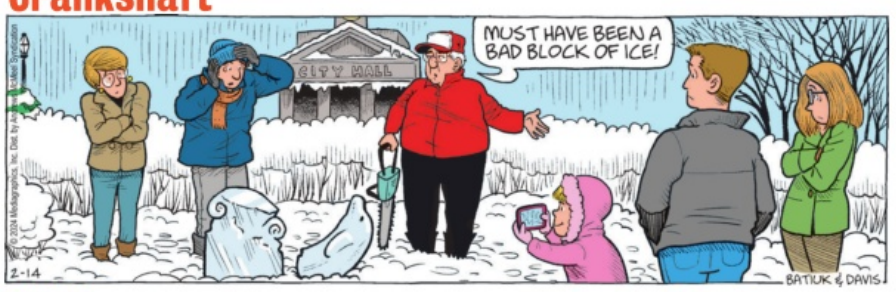
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

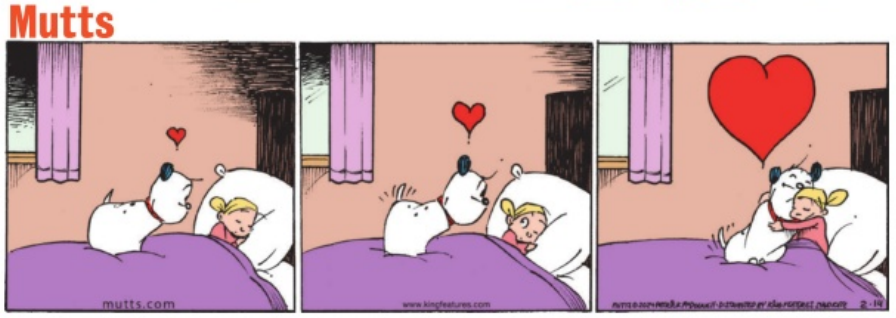
Hart of the city

WOW! THE HEART MIX... I FORGOT I STILL HAD THIS.
I MADE THIS MIX FOR ADDY WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH YOU. I THOUGHT IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU TO LISTEN TO MUSIC WHILE YOU WERE STILL BAKING.
HMMM... I DON'T THINK I LIKE THAT EUPHEMISM.

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today may be good for your professional life. You might be busy with work and your job, becoming very passionate about your tasks, which could lead to mental tiredness. As a result, you might not be able to attend family or social gatherings on time. However, your spouse may support you in maintaining domestic harmony. Love birds might make important decisions regarding marriage, and job seekers might hear good news about a suitable job with the help of friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You might be busy at work and likely to expand your network. With the blessings of elders, you will implement new plans to achieve success in the near future. You may plan to visit a close relative or organise a party with friends.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel a bit dull, which could make you sensitive and emotional. You might have some health-related issues, so it's advised to avoid rushing while driving. Keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents, as you could be a victim of conspiracy. Love birds are advised to be patient and avoid arguments on trivial matters.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may analyse yourself and figure out your mistakes. Self-analysis will boost your confidence at work. In partnerships, disputes may be resolved. Warmth with your spouse may improve, and students might make quick decisions regarding their careers. Singles may luckily find a good match.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, with the blessings of the moon, you may feel happy. Projects that were stalled may now come back on track. Relationships with your spouse may become stronger, and you might perform well at work. Singles are likely to find their soul mate, and love birds may plan to turn their relationship into marriage. You might get a promotion, and job seekers may find a good job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, with the blessings of elders, you may feel confident. Your working efficiency might increase, and you could start new innovations in business and work. You might see smart gains after making small investments. Opponents and rivals are now under control. Helping a needy person financially may increase your prestige. You might also bring some creative items for your house.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, things are mixed. You may be busy with your kids and might expect a short trip related to their academics. You will also enjoy romantic moments. Couples might hear good news about a new baby's birth, and you may plan an outing with family or friends. Those in jobs might plan for higher education to increase their skill set.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may be somewhat disappointing. You might feel impatient and unable to focus on your goals. It's advised to postpone investments in fixed assets for a while and take care of your parents' health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel energetic and courageous. You might buy some important household items for your home or office. Your inner strength might help you complete projects before the deadline. Disputes with siblings may be resolved, and short work-related trips are possible, which will expand your network.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is favourable. You may be able to control your expenditures, and your savings might increase. You could be busy at home, possibly bringing some artefacts for your home or planning to renovate your office. There will be an atmosphere of joy and happiness in the family. Love birds might plan to get married, and singles may find their soul mate. Kids will perform well.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things are under control, and you may feel a new energy that gives you confidence. You might find a new way to achieve success at work. Parental business may reach new heights, and chronic illness could be cured. You might also plan an overseas trip.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull, which could make you upset and impatient. You might face some health-related issues, so it's advised to avoid rushing while driving and to steer clear of adventure tours. Keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents, as you could be a victim of conspiracy. Avoid arguments.

KIDZONE

Anushika K V, 8 Years, Kle Society School

Janya B S, 6 Years, Baldwin Girls High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5*(24 x 1/3) / 5*6 =
5*(24/3) / 5*6 =
5*(8 - 6) =
5*2 = 25

RIDDLER Your home

FAST FIVE

F	L	A	B	S
R	A	C	E	R
A	B	I	D	E
C	U	R	R	Y
S	T	E	A	D

QUOTE UNCODE
Don't write so that you can be understood, write so that you can't be misunderstood.

STRIKE OUT

S	T	R	E	A	K	S		E	T	A	P	E		
	E		O		M		A		R		O		N	
A	B	U	S	E	R	S		A	P	I	N	G		
L		S		E		H			I				E	
O	S	I	E	R		E	X	A	C	T	E	D		
	L			P			N				E			
W	A	R	P		E	P	I	L	E	P	S	Y		
	N		I		E		T		V		L			
P	A	R	K	E	R		A	P	O	L	L	O		
	E		M		A	R	O	N		D				
R	O	O	F	S		S	H	U	T	E	Y	E		

QUICK

R		G		E		Y		T		L				
K	E	E	N	E	R		D	I	S	P	U	R		
K		4	7		A			E		F				
S	C	O	T	F	R	E	E		B	U	R	N		
O		S		C		R				A				
A	L	L	O	W		F	L	O	G	G	E	D		
		R				A		N						
W	I	N	F	R	E	Y		F	I	F	T	H		
		L		P		N		R		E				
W	A	R	P		E	P	I	L	E	P	S	Y		
	N		I		E		T		V		L			
P	A	R	K	E	R		A	P	O	L	L	O		
	E		M		A	R	O	N		D				
R	O	O	F	S		S	H	U	T	E	Y	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
C: add the contents of the first two boxes to obtain the contents of the third box, except when two lines or symbols appear in the same position in the first two boxes, in which case they are cancelled out.

BULL'S EYE
align, ANGLING, gain, gang, lain, ling, nail

8	2	6	3	4	9	7	1	5
3	4	7	5	6	1	9	2	8
9	1	5	7	8	2	4	6	3
4	9	1	2	5	8	3	7	6
2	6	8	1	7	3	5	4	9
5	7	3	6	9	4	2	8	1
6	5	2	8	1	7	3	9	4
7	3	9	4	2	6	8	1	5
1	8	4	9	3	5	6	7	2

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, De, Ted, Date, Hated, Detach, Charted.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 3 - 5 + 9 = 15
Medium
9 + 8 - 2 + 5 = 20
Hard
5 x 4 x 1 + 5 = 25

KAKURO

		11	9		9	2		
	4	3	1		3	1	2	
	8	6		17	8	9		
14	6		16	9			11	
4		3	1	15	1	6	8	
	9	2	1	12	3	2	1	13
6	7	9	8	24	7	2	1	4
16	1	3	2	23	9	8	7	
	2	1	3		1	6	9	
	9	3	2		9	4	2	
	7	6	9	16	8	2	9	
9	1	2	4		6	1	8	2
7	3		2	1	4	7	8	9

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